

# **A Novel Study Guide**

## **from**

# **Teacher-Tested Educational Publications**

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## Assignment Record

**Instructions:**

Use the list below to keep track of your assignments. As you complete each assignment, check it off on the blank under the **Complete** column.

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4. Comprehension Questions: Chapters 4-5	7	6	___
5. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 6	5	7	___
6. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 7	8	8	___
7. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 8	5	9	___
8. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 9	6	10	___
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jean Val Jean*

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### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter One**

1. This book begins with a break-in at the bakery shop. Who is the thief?
2. After Jean Val Jean's mother and father die, with whom does he live?
3. Why does Jean steal a loaf of bread?
4. How many years is his sentence for stealing a loaf of bread?
5. With what are Jean's size and strength considered equal?
6. How does Jean educate himself?
7. When Jean escapes the first time, how long is he free?
8. Because of his escape attempts, how many years in total does he spend in prison?
9. How does the nation keep track of its ex-prisoners?

## **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Two**

1. A few days later, at what little town does Jean arrive?
2. When Jean informs the tavern landlord that he has the money to pay for his bed and meals, what does the landlord reply?
3. At every tavern that Jean stops at, he is turned away because he is a jailbird. Where does he try next?
4. When he asks for a bed and meal, what does the turnkey advise him to do?
5. Jean curses and shakes his hand at the cathedral. Why?
6. Who suggests to Jean that he try the door to the little house beside the cathedral?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Three**

1. Who lives in the little house?
2. Why does the Bishop exchange the two buildings?
3. When the Bishop moves to the little house, what heirlooms does he take with him?
4. He keeps two cows. What does he do with all the milk?
5. When the Bishop comes to visit a small town in the mountains, what is his means of transportation?
6. The Bishop needs money for the aged and the orphans. Where does the money come from?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapters 4 & 5**

1. How does the Bishop welcome Jean Val Jean?
2. In the night about two o'clock, what does Jean do?
3. When the guardsman tells the Bishop that Jean has stolen from him, what does the Bishop say?
4. Without lying, how can the Bishop say that he gave Jean the silver?
5. From whom does Jean steal the silver coin?
6. Jean Val Jean is so ashamed of himself that he goes back to the Bishop's house. What does he do there?
7. Where does he obtain clean clothing?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Six**

1. As Jean Val Jean arrives at M. Sur M., what building is on fire?
2. All the spectators have looks of horror and fear on their faces. Why
3. In M. Sur M., how does Jean introduce himself?
4. Despite all the contributions to provide homes for the elderly, orphans and hospitals, how much money does he manage to save for himself?
5. What is an important question that the old lady asks Monsieur Madeline?



### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Seven**

1. Who is one of the two men who dislike Monsieur Madeline?
2. Where does Monsieur Madeline find a job and a home for Father Fauchelevant?
3. Who is the second person that dislikes Monsieur Madeline?
4. Inspector Javert thinks that Monsieur Madeline is really Jean Val Jean. From where does he believe he knows him?
5. Whose little girl is Cosette?
6. For the care of Cosette, how much money did Fantine promise to pay the Thenadiers each month?
7. What did she sell to help pay the monthly fee?
8. Mayor Madeline makes a promise to Fantine. What is the promise?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Eight**

1. Inspector Javert wrote a letter to the Chief Guardsman in Paris. Why?
2. Why is Monsieur Madeline driving to Arras?
3. What is the name of the man who is accused of being Jean Val Jean?
4. How does Monsieur Madeline convince the court that he is actually Jean Val Jean?
5. When this is accomplished, what does he do?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Nine**

1. Why is Jean in such a hurry to get home?
2. As Jean is at the hospital trying to comfort Jean, she dies. What happens to Jean Val Jean?
3. Jean successfully buries his money by a tree in the forest. When Javert arrests him again, how long a sentence is given?
4. After saving a sailor's life on the ship Orion, how does he escape?
5. Where does he go after his escape?
6. To where does he go next? Why?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Ten**

1. When Jean arrives in Montfermiel, what day is it?
2. It is one of Cosette's duties to carry all the water from the spring.  
Where is the spring?
3. There is a beautiful doll in the shop window. What name have all the little girls in the area given it?
4. A huge stranger carries Cosette's water bucket and also buys the beautiful doll for her. Who is he?
5. On Christmas morning, what does Cosette find in her old shoes?
6. Before Jean takes Cosette away, how much money does Thenardier want from him?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Eleven**

1. Jean and Cosette make their way to the city to an old hotel. What have all the neighbors named it?
  
2. What is their habit every evening?
  
3. How does Inspector Javert trick Jean Val Jean?
  
4. Taking Cosette with him, Jean escapes from the guardsmen. Sliding down the roof, where do they land?
  
5. Who is the old gardener?
  
6. Father Fauchelevent devises a plan to hide Jean and Cosette. How does he propose it to work?

**Comprehension Questions: Chapter Twelve**

1. Jean Val Jean keeps this arrangement with the nuns for a few years until he realizes that Cosette is changing into a young woman. What does he decide to do then?
2. Where are Jean's happiest hours spent?
3. On one outing in the park, Cosette meets a young attorney. What is his name?
4. The next day, what does Jean deliberately do to keep Cosette away from Marius?
5. On the spur of the moment, Jean moves to another area of the city. For what reason?
6. Marius has joined the *revolutionists*. What prompts Jean to find him?
7. Whom does Jean discover has been taken prisoner by the revolutionists for spying?
8. With Marius over his shoulder, to where does Jean escape?

**Comprehension Questions: Chapter Thirteen**

1. With Marius over his shoulder, Jean Val Jean wades through the Paris sewer until he comes to light at the end where the sewer empties into the Seine River. What prevents him from getting out?
2. From the outside, who opens the door and enters the tunnel?
3. From whom is Thenardier fleeing?
4. Why does Thenardier cut a piece of material from Marius' coattail?
5. Jean deposits Marius at his grandfathers' house. When he returns to the street, where is the carriage and Inspector Javert?
6. The next day in the newspaper, with what is the article concerned?

**Comprehension Questions: Chapter Fourteen**

1. How does the grandfather find out about Cosette?
2. After Cosette has nursed Marius back to health, what do they do?
3. The wedding reception being over, what does Jean give to Marius?
4. What has Cosette named the old black satchel that Jean has always kept locked?
5. Jean has kept the *Inseparable* all these years since he first rescued Cosette from the Thenardiers. In what has he kept it?
6. When Jean Val Jean tells Marius his true identity, what does Marius ask?
7. When he writes a love letter to Cosette and Marius, what does Jean explain about the money?



### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Fifteen**

1. While Marius searches through the slums of Paris for Jean Val Jean, with whom does he meet?
2. Thenardier comes to Marius' house to sell him secrets? About who are the secrets?
3. When Thenardier produces the piece of cloth he had cut from Marius' coattail, what does Marius realize?
4. Cosette and Marius come to take Jean to their home. Before they could do this, what happens?

## Reading Response: Visual Interpretation

### Notes:

A **hyperbole** is an **exaggerated statement** that goes beyond what is true or normal.

### Instructions:

Illustrate the hyperbole written below.

*"Still doubted and, pulling out his yellow passport, read, "Jean Val Jean, nineteen years a convict in the galleys of Toulon, for house-breaking and theft, a very dangerous character." That's my passport. **I might get up in the night and kill you.**" (Chapter 4)*

## Activity: Vocabulary/Dictionary

### Instructions:

A dictionary is a book that lists words of a language in alphabetical order and gives information about them. Using a dictionary:

- In the first blank for each word, break the word into syllables
- In the second blank for each word, write the word's part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun, conjunction, preposition, interjection)
- Write the definition(s) for each word (the first one is done for you)

1. Aardvark- (aard - vark) (noun)  
*An animal from Africa that catches ants and termites with its long, sticky tongue.*

2. Authorities- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Communion- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Conscience- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Culprit- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. District- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jean Val Jean*

7. Ecstasy- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Galley- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Grievous- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Intellectual- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Luxurious- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Magnificent- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Occupation- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Poach- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jean Val Jean*

15. Pursuit- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. Relentless- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. Render- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. Reputation- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. Sullen- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. Trifle- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

21. Uncanny- ( ) ( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary: Crossword Puzzle & Word Search #1

### Instructions:

Use the word list from the word search below as your word list for the crossword puzzle on the following page. All words are used once.

I	Y	L	U	X	U	R	I	O	U	S	L	Y	Y	P
N	V	V	A	D	G	A	L	L	E	Y	W	M	Y	W
T	H	T	N	E	C	I	F	I	N	G	A	M	C	K
E	O	C	C	U	P	A	T	I	O	N	Y	Y	N	T
L	E	Q	Z	O	P	I	P	C	U	L	P	R	I	T
L	D	S	A	C	R	Q	W	U	S	Q	S	P	A	R
E	T	C	X	O	E	J	E	U	R	D	Q	P	E	I
C	H	R	H	N	D	U	O	C	K	S	B	P	Z	F
T	Z	T	C	S	N	V	N	F	S	M	U	X	O	L
U	U	X	O	C	E	T	C	I	R	T	S	I	D	I
A	H	Y	A	I	R	I	F	P	A	W	A	B	T	N
L	P	N	R	E	L	E	N	T	L	E	S	S	K	G
E	N	G	N	N	O	C	I	V	R	O	H	H	Y	R
Y	I	M	M	C	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	O	N	U
S	U	L	L	E	N	N	E	S	S	X	Z	S	B	W

Authorities

Communion

Conscience

Culprit

District

Ecstasy

Galley

Grievously

Intellectual

Luxuriously

Magnificent

Occupation

Poach

Pursuit

Relentless

Render

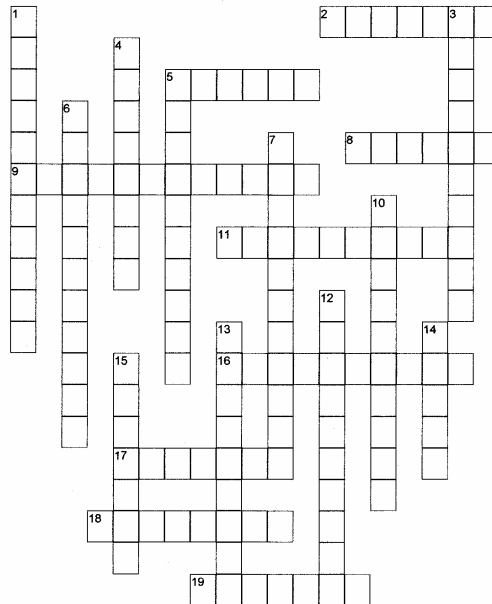
Reputation

Sullenness

Trifling

Uncanny

## Crossword Puzzle #1



### ACROSS

2. rapture, joy
5. the kitchen of  
a ship
8. make available,  
provide
9. thinker,  
mastermind
11. sense of right  
and wrong
16. profession
17. the act of  
pursuing
18. locality,  
neighborhood
19. weird, unnatural

### DOWN

1. lavishly
3. cheerless
4. unimportant,  
shallow
5. mournfully,  
tragically
6. government,  
the police
7. splendid, grand
10. ruthless,  
merciless
12. character,  
status
13. fellowship,  
togetherness
14. kill illegally
15. guilty party

## Reading Response: Illustrated Time Line

### Instructions:

Illustrate in **chronological** order **four events** that take place in **chapters 1-8**.




## Reading Response: Timeline

**Instructions:**

Using the time line below, list the most **important** events of **chapters 9-15**.

Chapters 9-15		
#5		
#6		
#7		
#8		
#9		
#10		

## Reading Response: Character Webs

**Instructions:**

Using the **webs** provided below, insert one **adjective** and support each with a **direct quote** from the novel.

The image contains two character webs. The first web is for Jean Val Jean, with a central oval labeled "Jean Val Jean" connected to four rectangular boxes. The top-left box contains the word "Bitter" and a quote: "I've been there and they kicked me out." (p. 16). The other three boxes are empty. The second web is for Inspector Javert, with a central oval labeled "Inspector Javert" connected to four empty rectangular boxes.

**Jean Val Jean**

**Bitter**  
*"I've been there and they kicked me out." (p. 16)*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Inspector Javert**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reading Response: Character Webs (Cont'd)****Instructions:**

Using the **webs** provided below, insert one **adjective** and support each with a **direct quote** from the novel.

The image shows two identical character web templates. Each template consists of a central oval containing a character's name, with four rectangular boxes connected to it by lines. Each box contains a horizontal line for writing.

**Cosette**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Marius**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response: Visual Interpretation

### Notes:

A **simile** is a comparison of two unlike things in which a word of comparison (like, as or than) is used.

### Instructions:

Interpret the simile below.

*"Like the wild beast he shows his bared teeth, as he says, "Never mind, we'll have our revenge tomorrow morning when I make out his bill." (p. 77)*

## Reading Response: Illustration

### Instructions:

In the boxes to the right of each word below, **illustrate** with great **detail** the **bold faced words**.

*"...the big clock in the cathedral tower striking two."*

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration of a clock tower striking two.

*"... last year's cracked and broken dolls."*

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration of cracked and broken dolls.

*"... lantern in hand..."*

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration of a person holding a lantern.

## Reading Response: Motif

### Notes:

**Motif** is a term for an **idea** or **theme** in literature that is often **repeated**. In the novel *Jean Val Jean*, one motif is **perseverance**.

The author, Solomon Cleaver, creates strong emotions through the theme of **perseverance** and arouses certain **feelings** in the minds of his **characters** and his readers.

### Instructions:

In the novel *Jean Val Jean*, find **two** instances where perseverance becomes a **motif** in the novel. Write your answer in the manner illustrated below. Include a **direct** quote from the novel. Your response should be **6-8 sentences** long.

### Example Response:

*Jean Val Jean was born disadvantaged. His father was a tree-pruner and so became Jean, but the income a tree-pruner made was not enough to raise a family. Attempting to steal a loaf of bread to feed his children, Jean was caught and sent to the galley prison of Toulon. A tough life became tougher. Jean became bitter, but persevered with the hope that some day he would be free:*

*Jean waited nearly four years for his own long-hoped-for opportunity. His comrades helped rid him of his fetters, then over the great wall he went, and he was soon far into the country. (14)*

*This was just the beginning of Jean's long and difficult life, but he never gave up. Eventually, perseverance would become his redeeming quality.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jean Val Jean*

### **#1. Motif: Perseverance**

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### **#2. Motif: Perseverance**

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## Reading Response: Visual Interpretation

### Notes:

A **metaphor** is a comparison of two unlike things in which no word of comparison is used.

### Instructions:

Interpret the **metaphor** below.

*"Madame Thenardier was a very tigress in disposition, loving her own offspring but hating every person and everything that appeared to come between herself and her children."  
(p. 73)*



## Reading Response: Conflict

### Notes:

A **problem** or **complication** exists in every story that creates **conflict**. This conflict can be **external** or **internal**.

One type of **external** conflict arises when a main character is in conflict with another **character (person vs. person)**. Another type of external conflict arises when a main character is in **conflict with nature (person vs. nature)**. **Person vs. society** is where a character has a problem with some **element of society** such as school, laws or some other **accepted way of doing things**. At other times a character may be doing battle with **uncontrollable problems**. If the problem appears to be an **unbelievable coincidence, fate** can be considered the **cause** of conflict.

A character may be experiencing **internal** conflict (**person vs. self**) and seems to be **torn in two different directions**. It is possible for a main character to be experiencing **more than one type** of conflict. By the end of a story, the character facing a conflict **succeeds or fails** in achieving his/her **goal**, or **solving** his/her problem.

The way a conflict is solved is called the **resolution**. Every **conflict** has a **resolution**. **Conflict and resolution** are part of a story's **plot** or **main action**.

**Tension** is a product of conflict. A good story needs **conflict and tension**. A good writer is able to keep the tension in a story "**as taut as a bow string**."

### Example Response:

In the novel ***Ten Steps to Eden***, identify the conflict, quote directly from its text and provide further support for your quote. Use the example that follows as your guide.

Note, in the first sentence, the novel's **title and author** is stated. The second **sentence introduces the quote**. The third sentence **states the quote**. The **fourth and fifth sentences explain the type of conflict** the quote illustrates and provides **further support** for the quote.



## Reading Response: Visual Interpretation

### Notes:

A **simile** is a comparison of two unlike things in which a word of comparison (like, as or than) is used.

### Instructions:

Interpret the simile below.

*"Seeing this, Marius springs like a tiger, seizes it, looks at it." (Chapter 15)*

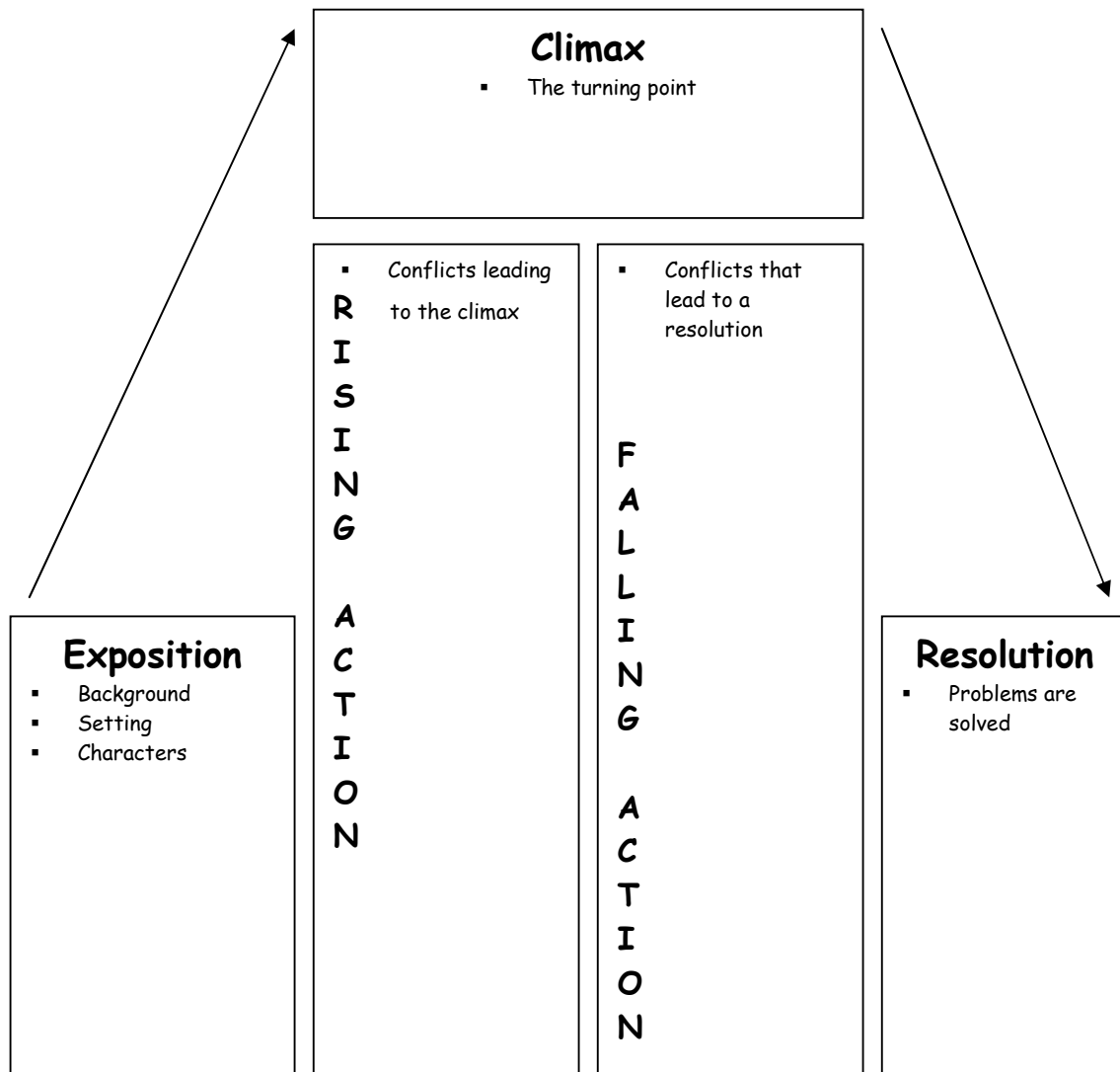
## Reading Response: Plot Summary

### Notes:

The **plot** is the **action** of the story. During the **rising action** of the story various **problems** arise that lead up to the **climax**. The **highest point** in the action of the story is the **climax**. After the climax the action **subsides** (falls) and leads to a **resolution**.

### Instructions:

Fill in the **boxes** to **explain** the **plot** in the story *Jean Val Jean*. Choose your words carefully and write in **bullet form**.



**Activity: Vocabulary/Thesaurus****Instructions:**

A thesaurus is a reference book that contains groups of words that share a similar meaning. A synonym is a word that has a meaning similar to another word. Using a thesaurus:

- Locate and write 2 synonyms for each word (Not all words have synonyms. For those words without synonyms, write NA in the blanks.)

Abominable-	_____	_____
Bishop-	_____	_____
Congenial-	_____	_____
Contempt-	_____	_____
Deficient-	_____	_____
Dignitary-	_____	_____
Diocese-	_____	_____
Elegant-	_____	_____
Esteem-	_____	_____
Fiendish-	_____	_____
Insinuate-	_____	_____
Literally-	_____	_____
Proffered-	_____	_____
Prosperity-	_____	_____
Prostrate-	_____	_____
Scoundrel-	_____	_____
Unsavory-	_____	_____
Vengeance-	_____	_____

## Vocabulary: Crossword Puzzle & Word Search #2

### Instructions:

Use the word list from the word search below as your word list for the crossword puzzle on the following page. All words are used once.

```

S F F L A P J F K A B L Z Y E
U N S A V O R Y B S I I V B S
O D E R E F F O R P S T E A X
I M L Y D R M S Y G H E R N Z
N K N Y T I R E P S O R P K D
O L A I N E G N O C P A Q N I
M O R A E N T N A G E L E T O
E L B F I E N D I S H L O P C
R L Y I C O A E G T H Y U M E
E K G O I N S I N U A T E E S
C S M N F T P R O S T R A T E
N J N L E R D N U O C S Y N V
U I G E D N B A N J S P V O C
J A M E Z R S V E N G A N C E

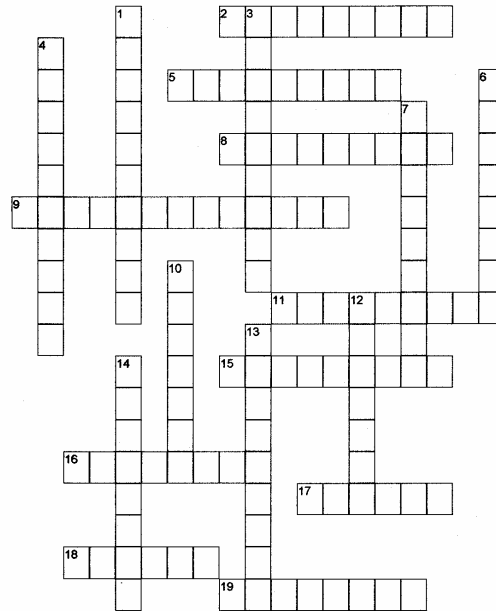
```

Abominable  
Bishop  
Congenial  
Contempt  
Deficient  
Dignitary  
Diocese

Elegant  
Esteem  
Fiendish  
Insinuate  
Literally  
Proffered  
Prosperity

Prostrate  
Scoundrel  
Unceremonious  
Unsavory  
Vengeance

## Crossword Puzzle #2



ACROSS		DOWN	
2. rogue, rascal	18. a member of the clergy	1. good fortune, wealth	14. inhuman, vicious
5. public figure	ranking above a priest	3. agreeable, friendly	
8. shortage of, inadequacy	19. an eye for an eye	4. loathsome, obnoxious	
9. without ritual, casual		6. unpleasant, revolting	
11. line for line, letter for letter		7. convey the impression, imply	
15. submitted ones		10. the territorial jurisdiction of a bishop	
16. show disrespect for the bully		12. graceful, beautiful	
17. respect, admiration		13. stretched out, flat	

## Reading Response: Satire

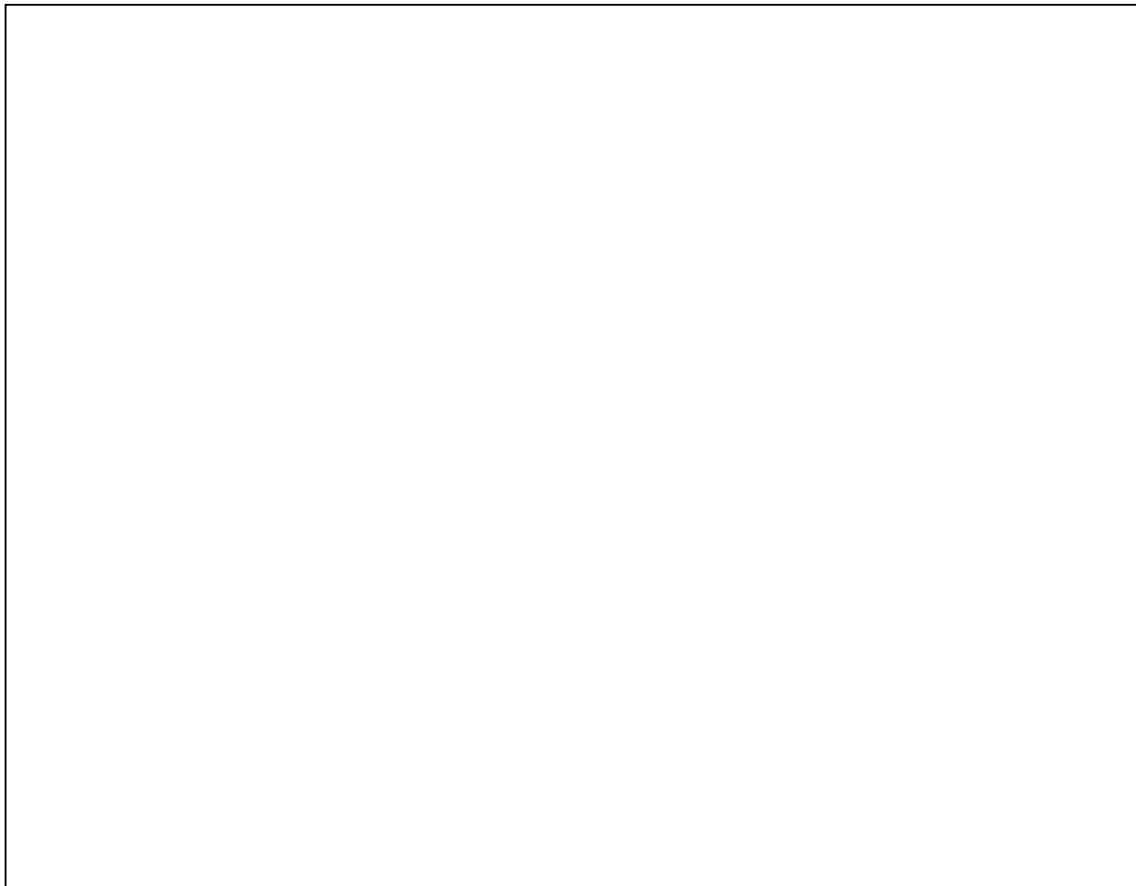
**Notes:**

**Satire** is writing that ridicules or makes fun of people's **mistakes** and **weaknesses**. Often the intent is to correct or change the subject of the satiric attack. A **satiric essay** uses **exaggeration**, **distortion** and **irony** to comment on a subject.

**Instructions:**

As a **satirist**, create a **satire** in the form of a **cartoon**, based on one chapter from *Jean Val Jean*. Make fun of how the characters **look**, **what they say** and **what they do**. Your cartoon should have **1-4 frames**, with each frame including a **balloon with dialogue**. It should **depict** one particular scene from the chapter you have chosen to satirize.

Divide the page below into 1-4 frames and use it as a rough copy only.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jean Val Jean*

## **Satire: Good Copy**



## Reading Response: Letter to the Author

### Notes:

In a letter to the **author**, individuals can share their **feelings and thoughts** about an author's book. Perhaps, individuals can make **connections** between their own lives and the **lives of the characters** in the book?

### Instructions:

Write a letter to **the author**, explaining how you have come to read this book. Communicate why certain events in the **plot, or the characters, setting etc.**, are appealing to you. As well, mention anything you may find **confusing, or unbelievable** and **include a quote** from the book to support your statements. Finally, thank Mr. Cleaver for helping to teach you something that you **didn't know before** reading Victor Hugo's story. Use the format below to write your letter.

Heading		(Address)
		(Date)
Inside Address		(Author's complete name and address)
Salutation		(begins with <b>Dear</b> and ends with a <b>colon</b> )
Close		
Signature		



## Reading Response: Point of View

**Notes:**

**First-Person Point of View:** One of the characters is telling the story.

**Third-Person Point of View:** One character from outside the story is telling it. There are three **Third-Person Points of View**:

- **Unlimited Omniscient-** narrator can read the minds of the characters
- **Limited Omniscient-**narrator can read the mind of one character
- **Camera View (objective view):** the narrator records the action from a neutral point-of-view; the narrator can write about what the characters are doing, but not what they're thinking

**Instructions:**

Fill in the chart below.

<i>Jean Val Jean</i>			
What is the narrator's point of view?	Who is telling the story?	What do we know about the character(s)?	
		thoughts - feelings - observations	

## Reading Response: Foreshadowing

**Notes:**

**Foreshadowing** entices readers to turn the page and keep reading. Authors **drop hints** so readers can **predict** what will happen next.

**Instructions:**

Fill in the chart below. Find **clues** in the novel that may predict what will happen next.

Foreshadowing	
Clues From the Story	What happened next?

## Reading Response: Mood

### Notes:

**Mood** is created through the choice of **words and letter sounds**, and through the **repetition of words, phrases and sentences**.

### Example:

In the following passage from Theodore Taylor's novel, *The Cay*, a lost and lonely mood is created through the author's **choice of words** and the **description of the setting**:

*"I looked all around us. There was nothing but blue sea with occasional patches of orange-brown seaweed. No sight of the Hato, or other rafts or boats. Just the sea and a few boats that wheeled over it. That lonely sea, and the sharp pains in my head, and the knowledge that I was here alone with a black man instead of my mother made me break into tears."*(P. 32)

Mood			
Word Sounds	<i>wheeled</i> <i>break</i>	Words	<i>lonely</i> <i>alone</i> <i>tears</i> <i>nothing</i>
Phrases	<i>"nothing but blue sea"</i> <i>"no sight of the Hato"</i> <i>"just the sea</i> <i>"knowledge that I was here alone"</i> <i>"break into tears"</i> <i>"occasional patches"</i>	Sentences	<i>"Just the sea and a few boats that wheeled over it."</i> <i>"That lonely sea, and the sharp pains in my head, and the knowledge that I was here alone with a black man instead of my mother made me break into tears."</i>



## The Essay

### Notes:

An **essay** is a short prose **composition** that usually deals with one topic in a **limited and personal** manner. An essay could be an **editorial, letter, speech, lecture, sermon**, or even **hidden** as part of a **play or novel**.

Note the **last sentence** of the **first paragraph** contains your **thesis statement**. This sentence is perhaps the most important sentence of your essay. Your **thesis statement** might also be referred to as your **point of view**, or **argument**. Your thesis is your attitude towards a particular topic. Write your thesis statement as **clearly** and **forcefully** as possible.

### 5 Paragraph Essay

#### Paragraph 1

General Statement  
General Statement  
General Statement  
General Statement  
Thesis Statement

Introduction

#### Paragraph 2

Topic Sentence  
Example #1  
Transition sentence to intro example #2  
Example #2  
Concluding Sentence

#### Paragraph 3

Topic Sentence  
Example #1  
Transition sentence to intro example #2  
Example #2  
Concluding Sentence

Body

#### Paragraph 4

Topic Sentence  
Example #1  
Transition sentence to intro example #2  
Example #2  
Concluding Sentence

#### Paragraph 5

Concluding Sentence  
Concluding Sentence  
Final Concluding Sentence

Conclusion



**Instructions:**

Choose **one** of the following essay topics:

1. Javert was overzealous in his pursuit of Jean.
2. Initially, Jean was a criminal and deserved to spend time in jail.
3. One must feed one's family using the necessary means. Jean did what he had to do.
4. Jean died a saint.
- 5.

**First**, plan your essay by filling in the essay chart. Use abbreviated sentences. **Then**, use the sheets provided for your rough copy. Write in complete sentences. **And finally**, write a good copy. If possible, type the good copy using a word processor.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jean Val Jean*

## Essay Chart

*Jean Val Jean*

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Statement: \_\_\_\_\_

4 general  
statements  
regarding the  
book

Based on your chosen  
topic, write a thesis  
statement that  
reflects your opinion.  
Break your thesis  
statement into 3 sub-  
topics (mini-topics).

Paragraph #1	Paragraph #2	Paragraph #3	Paragraph #4	Paragraph #5
General Statements	Sub-topic:	Sub-topic:	Sub-topic:	Conclusion
1.	Topic Sentence:	Topic Sentence:	Topic Sentence:	1.
2.	Example #1 (2-3 sentences):	Example #1 (2-3 sentences):	Example #1: (2-3 sentences)	2.
3.	Transition sentence (intro. next example):	Transition sentence (intro. next example):	Transition sentence (intro. next example):	3.
4.	Example #2 (2-3 sentences):	Example #2 (2-3 sentences):	Example #2 (2-3 sentences):	4.
Thesis Statement:	Concluding sentence:	Concluding sentence:	Concluding sentence:	5.

3 sentences  
to sum up  
your opinion  
about the  
topic

## **Rough Copy: 5 Paragraph Essay**

### **Paragraph 1**

*General Statement*

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*General Statement*

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*General Statement*

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*General Statement*

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*Thesis Statement*

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### **Paragraph 2**

*Topic Sentence*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jean Val Jean*

### Example #1

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### Transition Sentence

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### Example #2

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### Concluding Sentence

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### Paragraph 3

#### Topic Sentence

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jean Val Jean*

### Example #1

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### Transition Sentence

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### Example #2

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### Concluding Sentence

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### Paragraph 4

### Topic Sentence

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jean Val Jean*

### Example #1

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### Transition Sentence

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### Example #2

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### Concluding Sentence

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### Paragraph 5

### Concluding Sentence

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jean Val Jean*

**Concluding Sentence**

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**Final Concluding Sentence**

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## Reading Response: Character Inventory

**Instructions:**

While reading *Jean Val Jean*:

- record the page number of each character's **first** appearance in the novel
- write a brief description of each character (2 or 3 sentences)

Character	Page #	Description



**Answers to Comprehension Questions:****Chapter One**

1. Jean Val Jean
2. His sister
3. To feed his sisters' seven little ones
4. Five years
5. Four ordinary men
6. With the help of a fellow prisoner and the prison library
7. Thirty-six hours
8. Nineteen years
9. Issue yellow passports

**Chapter Two**

1. The town of D\_\_\_\_\_.
2. "Then you are welcome here"
3. At the jailhouse
4. "Get yourself arrested, then you can come in"
5. Because he hates God and Justice as co-conspirators against him
6. A little old lady

**Chapter Three**

1. Bishop Welcome
2. Because the hospital has room for only Thirty Six people and the Bishop's house will accommodate Sixty
3. Two candlesticks and six silver spoons
4. The milk from one cow is enough for his house and from the other goes to the hospital
5. A donkey
6. His own salary

**Chapters Four and Five**

1. By seating him at his right hand for supper and putting him in his own bed for sleeping
2. He steals the silver spoons and candlesticks and leaves the town
3. "I gave him the spoons"
4. Last night the Bishop told him, "everything in the house is yours"
5. Gervais
6. Prays to God
7. Second Hand store

**Chapter Six**

1. The Guardhouse
2. Because the Chief Guardsman's two little girls are trapped upstairs in the burning building

3. Monsieur Madeline
4. Six hundred and thirty thousand francs
5. "Isn't it wrong not to do all the good that you can"?

### **Chapter Seven**

1. A retired attorney Father Fauchevelent
2. In a convent in Paris
3. Inspector Javert
4. The prison in Toulon
5. Fantine's
6. Seven francs
7. Her long hair and two front teeth
8. Before she dies he will bring Cosette to see her

### **Chapter Eight**

1. To accuse Monsieur Madeline of being Jean Val Jean
2. To confess to being Jean Val Jean and to prevent another going to jail in his stead
3. Champ
4. He describes the tattoos on each of the accusers
5. He catches the stage for home

### **Chapter Nine**

1. To retrieve his money from the bank
2. He is arrested by Javert
3. Life in prison at Toulon
4. Falls into the water and swims away
5. Back to M. Sur M. for his buried money
6. To Montfermiel; to find Cosette and rescue her from the Thenardiers

### **Chapter Ten**

1. Christmas Eve
2. In the woods
3. The Princess
4. Jean Val Jean
5. A gold coin in each shoe
6. Fifteen Hundred francs

### **Chapter Eleven**

1. "The Garbeau Hovel"
2. To take a walk
3. For Four francs he rented the beggar's hooded jacket
4. Into the garden of the convent
5. Father Fauchevelent

6. Father Fauchelevent and Monsieur Madeline pretend to be brothers and will live together and Cosette will be taught by the nuns

### **Chapter Twelve**

1. Moves into a comfortable home in the city suburbs
2. In the park
3. Marius
4. Sits on a bench in a secluded part of the park
5. He wants to keep Cosette to himself
6. Shame
7. Inspector Javert
8. Into the sewer

### **Chapter Thirteen**

1. A heavy door of iron bars
2. Thenardier
3. Inspector Javert
4. He thinks that he may someday be able to use it as evidence or blackmail
5. He has gone
6. He had committed suicide by jumping into the River Seine

### **Chapter Fourteen**

1. In his delirium he talks about her
2. They go to the cathedral and get married
3. A check for Six Hundred Thousand francs
4. "The Inseparable"
5. The black clothes that he had bought for Cosette when he took her away from the Thenardiers
6. Stay away from his house and his wife
7. That he had acquired it all honestly

### **Chapter Fifteen**

1. Thenardier
2. Jean Val Jean known as Father Madeline
3. That Jean is the man who rescued him from the revolutionary's barricade
4. Jean Val Jean placed a hand on each of their heads and quietly died

## Jean Val Jean #1

